Ala. Seeks Maximum Penalties In Church Bombing Cases

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (UPI) — Alabama's Deputy Atty. Gen. George L. Beck said the state will seek "the maximum punishment" in two civil rights era church bombing cases — including, if possible, the death penalty.

"We're going after the maximum punishment, whatever the law will allow," Beck said yesterday. "In my opinion, there's still an open question in both cases" as to whether the death penalty can be applied.

Robert Chambliss, a 73-year-old former Ku Klux Klan member, was indicted Monday on four counts of murder in a 1963 bombing that claimed the lives of four young black girls.

J.B. Stoner, an avowed racist lawyer from Marietta, Ga., is under indictment for a 1958 Birmingham church bombing that caused no injuries.